

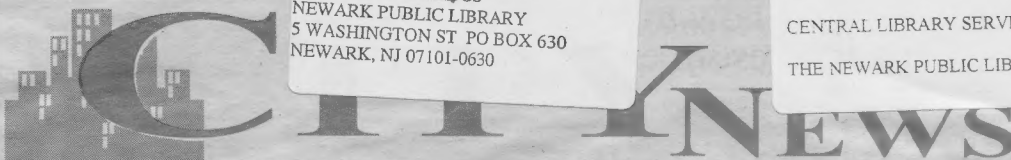
Still in the Battle
p 4

Stealing My
Good Name
P 5

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Vol. 19, No. 30

April 30 - May 6, 2003

SBA pumps \$219 Mil in loans to NJ Small Business

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) New Jersey District Office reported that New Jersey small business owners received \$219 million from the agency during the first six months of its Fiscal Year 2003 (the period of October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003).

According to SBA New Jersey District Director James A. Kocsi, the New Jersey District Office has approved 1,035 loans for a total of \$219 million during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2003. In comparison, the office approved 1,009 loans for \$245.5 million during the same time period in Fiscal Year 2002.

"Overall, the number of loans approved is up slightly while the total dollar value is behind last year's pace," said Kocsi. "The fact that we are providing smaller dollar loans is not a surprise, given our efforts to promote smaller loans that are quickly available through our SBA Express loan program. In addition, during the first five months of our fiscal year the agency had a \$500,000 loan limit in place due to the delayed approval of the agency's budget."

Kocsi noted that loan approvals to Asian Americans were up and that loan approvals to African Americans and Hispanic Americans were about the same as last year. The agency also reported a drop in the number of loans to women owned small businesses.

During the first half of Fiscal Year 2003, the SBA approved 222 loans to Asian American business owners for \$67.4 million; compared to the first six months of Fiscal Year 2002 figures of 214 loans for \$56.7 million. Hispanic American small business owners, throughout the state, received 67 loans for 8.4 million; compared to 66 loans for \$13 million during the same time in Fiscal Year 2002. African American small business owners received 35 loans for \$4.3 million; compared to

See SBA on page 5

By: Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—As the Bush administration concentrates on rebuilding a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, some social policy experts are urging the president to give equal attention to rebuilding America's social fabric.

"President Bush has been a champion for democracy over there. But he has been silent on democracy over here," says Rev. Wendell Anthony, pastor of Fellowship Chapel United Church of Christ and president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP. "If America has enough resources to build Iraq in the Middle East, then we have the resources to rebuild Detroit in the Midwest."

Critics say Bush is pushing for health care for all Iraqi citizens while 40 million Americans are uninsured. He is pushing for the rehabilitation of 6,000 school buildings in Iraq while under-funding by \$10 billion his two-year-old education initiative, "No Child Left Behind." And he wants a new electoral system in Iraq—complete with checks and balances



Maude Hurd

to protect against election disputes—despite charges that America's electoral system needs an overhaul.

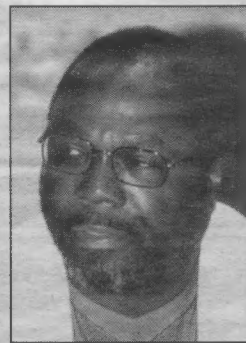
"We're talking about giving out contracts to build 6,000 schools [in Iraq] when we have schools in my district that are literally getting wet in the rain, buildings that are literally over 100 years old," says Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.). "The economy is already in disarray. He's still trying to give a substantial tax cut. The economy itself is on the down



Cong. Elijah Cummings

stroke. We're spending extra money for homeland security and additional money for the war. I mean, if that's not a combination for economic disaster, I don't know what is."

Cummings says he supports helping the Iraqi people after America and its allies have destroyed their country. However, he adds: "I'm just saying that we need to start off by looking at the children within a few miles of the very capital where Mr. Bush sits and throughout this country... Something is wrong with this



Rev. Wendell Anthony

picture."

Analysts estimate that the rebuilding of Iraq could cost \$25 billion to \$100 billion, depending on how long it takes and the extent of international cooperation. And some question whether rebuilding efforts in Iraq will last.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that they are not there to rebuild that country, but to steal its natural resources," says Julia Hare, executive director of the Black

See REBUILD ON PAGE 12

Republicans Fight Dirty Over NAACP Lawsuit against Gun Dealer

By: Ron Walters

In case you didn't know it, while we were watching the war in Iraq, the NAACP was taking care of business, suing gun dealers in order to dramatically slow the carnage in the Black community from the illegal and irresponsible use of guns. But Republicans in the Congress are fighting back, using legislation and racism.

African-Americans account for 51 percent of gun homicides and there is a well-heeled, illegal sales machine operating in the Black community. It feeds the domestic war over drug sales and turf in many inner cities and it mysteriously goes unabated, while it is common knowledge that these guns are not made in the Black commu-

nity and are not sold, for the most part, in gun shops that do legitimate commerce.

Recently a "60 Minutes" television show indicated that the U.S. Justice Department could determine, with the help of the Treasury Department's firearms division, which guns shops sold a disproportionate number of weapons that have turned up in the commission of crimes. It turns out that there is a national database that contains the serial numbers of these weapons, which can be traced back to the manufacturers and, in many cases, to the stores from which they were sold. Why don't local law enforcement officials have access to this data base? It is prohibited from being used by the U.S. attorney general, a big protector

of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

This is cold-blooded stuff. Most of us have the movie version of this problem in our heads, where petty drug dealers buy weapons from the neighborhood pawn shop and use them to wipe out their competition. But the truth is often more like the fact that sophisticated weapons are available on a wholesale basis to the leaders of street gangs. In some cases, we are told, availability almost resembles weapons sales made to a small foreign country. That is why it is a problem largely beyond the capacity of local authorities to regulate.

In response to the NAACP's legal action, Republicans—and some Democrats whose knees shake when the NRA feels

threatened—have sponsored bills in both the House and Senate. In the Senate, there is S. 659 and in the House, there is R. 1036; both make it illegal to sue gun manufacturers for the misuse of their product, especially where they do not produce it to be operated safely. That is the standard with regard to every other regulated product on the market.

This amounts to the blatant use of the law, of their majority control of public policy in the Congress, to shield producers of the instruments of death. It is dirty business and it ought to be stopped, yet I hear few elected officials at local levels telling their constituents to fight back.

The Black community

See LAWSUIT on page 12

New book outlines how to have a financial plan for life's unforeseen events

PLAINFIELD, N.J. — Nicole B. Simpson barely escaped from her office on the 73rd floor of World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. A certified financial planner, she knew if she had not had a plan in place for unforeseen events, her family's life could have been dramatically changed. It prompted her to write the book, *Planning for a Reason, A Season, and A Lifetime*



(now available through 1stBooks Library) to let people know how critical financial planning is and how to get started on being financially secure.

Simpson asks these crucial questions: How would you feel if you were terminated from your company as a result of downsizing? Can you afford to be home on disability without concern about how to pay the next mortgage payment?

She helps the reader start developing a financial plan for the unexpected and shows them how to evaluate their situation and pinpoint their goals. Her book tells the reader how to get started on achieving those goals, no matter what their current financial situation.

Simpson has been a financial planner and financial advisor since 1997. She has been involved in the securities industry for 12 years. She specializes in comprehensive financial planning, including portfolio management, retirement accounts for small business owners and tax strategies for people in the entertainment industry. For more information about 1stBooks visit www.1stbooks.com.



"Affair of the Heart" Gala Recognizing Corporate and Individual Achievement in Cardiovascular Health — Beth Bacall, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey in Newark, and Rich Vitale, St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, were named to the executive planning committee of the American Heart Association's Affair of The Heart gala taking place on May 3. (Pictured) at a recent planning meeting for the American Heart Association Affair of The Heart gala are (back row, left to right): Charles Anthony, Case Consulting Laboratories, Inc., Whippany; John Schmidt, Morgan Stanley, Jersey City; and Vitale; (front row, left to right) Bacall; Joseph Trunfio, Atlantic Health System, Florham Park; Louis LaSalle, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, West Orange; and Susan Elliott, Smith Barney, Roseland. Trunfio and LaSalle are the 2003 co-chairmen of the American Heart Association Affair of The Heart gala.



Health and Wellness at NJCU — Louise DeSalvo (right), the author of 13 books, including *Breathless*, *Adultery*, *Vertigo*, and *Writing as a Way of Healing: How Telling Our Stories Transforms Our Lives*, delivered the keynote address of New Jersey City University's tenth annual "Health and Wellness Week." Ms. DeSalvo discussed her topic, *Writing as a Way of Healing*, with Dr. Alissa Koval Dhaliwal (second from left), a psychologist with the Counseling and Psychological Services Center, and Carolyn Hunter (second from right), supervisor of the Health and Wellness Center, coauthors of "Health and Wellness Week"; Vivian Chao of Passaic, a junior majoring in international business; and Joshua Fausty, an assistant professor of English who coconducted a "Health and Wellness Week" workshop on "Reading and Writing for the Health of It."

Health and Wellness Conference

As part of an effort in the City of Newark to promote healthy lifestyles, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) will host a free health and wellness conference on Friday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The conference will be held at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, 185 South Orange Avenue, Newark.

The public is invited to attend the conference, which is being co-sponsored by the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities at UMDNJ and the UMDNJ-University Hospital. The conference is being coordinated to promote healthier lifestyles and build health awareness throughout the community. Lunch speakers will be Catherine Cuomo-Cecere, director, Newark Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr., professor of Community Health and Family Practice, Howard University Medical Center, Washington, D.C., Dr. Adewale Troutman, medical director, Fulton County Health Department, Georgia.

The Newark Health Renaissance Weekend, which begins on Thursday, May 15 and continues through Sunday, May 18, is a city-wide collaborative venture designed to promote health, physical fitness and proper nutrition. Additional activities include a kick-off celebration, health festival, and an opportunity for men, women and children to participate in an Electric Slide dance-a-thon to establish a ranking in the Guinness Book of World Records. Faith-based organizations will also host health fairs, panel discussions and health screenings. For more information about the health conference at UMDNJ, call 973-972-7289.



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COLLECTION DAY

- FREE - FOR ESSEX COUNTY RESIDENTS

WHERE:

Essex County Dept. of Public Works
Fleet Maintenance Garage
99 West Bradford Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ

WHEN:

Saturday May 3, 2003
From 8:30 am to 4:00 pm only
Rain or Shine - no early arrivals will be accepted.

WHAT MATERIALS TO BRING

- Paints and solvents
- Oil-based paints and stains
- Automotive fluids: antifreeze, motor oil, steering fluids etc.
- Gasoline
- Household cleaning fluids
- Detergents, photographic chemicals
- Batteries (auto type) Mercury and mercury containing products
- AAA, C, D, 9V, 18V, C, D, 9V, 18V
- Propane tanks (barbecue type only)
- Pool chemicals
- Fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts
- Fire extinguishers (house type only)

WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING

- Waste from commercial or industrial sources (only Essex County residents waste)
- Latex paint (dry out and dispose with regular trash)
- Empty containers (rinse or dispose with regular trash)
- Unlabeled or unidentifiable materials
- Explosives, munitions, or ordnance or highly reactive materials
- Regulated medical waste or infectious waste
- Asbestos



All containers must be five gallons or under, or ten pounds or under. Larger or heavier containers will be rejected. To participate, Essex County residents must provide proof of residency, such as a drivers license etc., upon entering the collection site. For more information call the Essex County Utilities Authority at:

973-857-2350

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Indictment Says Texas Lawman Lied

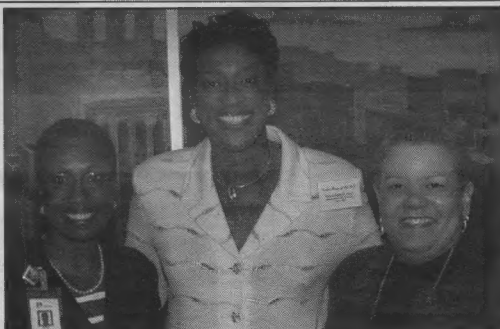
(Special to the NNPA)—Tom Coleman, the Texas lawman that led the police sting on a suspected drug ring in a small town, has been indicted for presenting false evidence that put 38 people in jail. The majority of those convicted were African-American.

A jury in the northern Texas county of Swisher handed down the indictments against Coleman on suspicion of perjuring himself in statements he made about his career as a law enforcement officer. If convicted, Coleman could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for each of the charges.

"It is stipulated by all parties and approved by the court that Tom Coleman is simply not a credible witness under oath," Judge Ron Chapman said in a statement in court earlier this month.

In 1999, Coleman claimed he bought drugs from suspects in Tulia, a predominantly White farm town of 5,000 people. No drugs were ever found and little or no corroborating evidence was introduced at trials.

Earlier this month, state attorneys and lawyers trying to overturn the convictions reached an agreement to request that all 38 felony convictions obtained by Coleman's testimony be overturned by a higher court. Thirteen people arrested in the sting are still in jail.



DELTA Sorority earns special designation for UNS

(WASHINGTON, D.C. - April 3, 2003) - Delta Sigma Theta sorority (DST) National President Gwendolyn Boyd (center) congratulates Edna Moore, Director, Government Affairs Policy and Outreach for Altria Corporate Services and Tina Walls, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs for Philip Morris USA, for their sponsorship of the recent "Delta Day At the United Nations" reception, hosted at The Haas Room in New York City. Delta Sigma Theta was granted Special Consultative Status as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO), to the Economic and Social Council of the UN ceremonies at the United Nations.

The prestigious designation, one of very few granted to an African-American women's organization, permits DST to provide analysis and expertise in monitoring and implementing international agreements on issues of mutual concern, including the status of women and children, in which the UN is involved.

Founded in 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., one of the oldest and most respected African-American women's groups, has been providing service and support to local communities, leading the dialogue on public policy issues, supporting quality education, providing scholarships, sponsoring artistic innovation, creating positive opportunities for the development of youth and producing new projects to stimulate current and future economic growth. DST has over 950 chapters worldwide.

Zimbabwe's Independence Day Finds Country in Deep Crisis

HARARE, Zimbabwe (GIN)—As Zimbabweans prepared to celebrate 23 years of independence from Britain on Friday, the event was less festive than in earlier times as the nation confronts deepening economic and social crises.

Severe shortages of basic goods and triple-digit inflation are some of the worsening economic indicators and this week authorities tripled the price of gasoline.

More than half of the country's 11.6 million people are surviving at the poverty line, and the recent fuel price increases are bound to plunge many Zimbabweans even deeper into poverty and misery.

Unemployment rates hover at more than 70 percent and recurring power outages have forced many industrialists to cut production time by at least half, adding to the ranks of the unemployed.

President Robert Mugabe continues to do battle with opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, head of the Movement for Democratic Change, and European and American governments who are pressing hard for "regime change" in this Southern African country.

In an Easter speech, Mugabe acknowledged the southern African nation was facing its worst economic crisis since independence in 1980 and had experienced "three years of suffering" since he launched an often violent program to confiscate thousands of White-owned farms. But he defended the land-reform policy.

"We are delighted at last our land is now the people's land. The White man has been displaced by the Black man. We are strong politically," he said.

Mugabe described the opposition as "neocolonialist extensions of Britain" and "agents of imperialism" nurtured by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and White farmers, the descendants of British colonial-era settlers.

"Let it be known we are not totally independent until we take over our land. Now the land is in our hands, we have the capacity to improve the lot of our people. These hardships are going to go," he said.

Taking a swat at the United States, which has frozen funds and blocked entry to some Zimbabwe politicians, Mugabe told the U.S. government to "go hang," and said the U.S.-led coalition's operations in Iraq were "a grave criminal act."

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GET THE FEELING

TOYOTA

Editorial

Getting a bigger piece of the pie

For hundreds of years, since landing in this country, as slaves, black men and women have fought against enslavement, injustice, and cruelty. To dehumanize, the race, they were called everything that made them less than human. Everything was done to them and their families, children, etc. to maintain them in a role as being lower than animals. Even when their forefather and mothers raised generations of white babies and gave their blood working from sun up to sun down, they were denied equality of education and access to the tools to create wealth.

Today, Black Americans are disproportionately poor, imprisoned, murdered, and under educated. Their dreams and hopes for themselves and their children continue to elude them due to system that inflicts apartheid conditions on the very people who built this country.

In spite of carrying this burden of resistance, the race has made tremendous gains. While Democrats, used the Black vote to get elected, they do little if anything to substantially, change and improve their conditions. They "let them eat cheese." Republicans made it clear they wanted to disassociate with Blacks to gain a larger share and more conservative White voters. Not only did they attack everything they thought was helping Blacks progress, they used Black progress as White loss.

In the late 80's and early 90's, Repubs realized they would never recapture the Black vote as did Lincoln, so they made a conscious decision to replace Black minority group dominance with Hispanics as the dominant minority group. These plotters and schemers, increased trade and opened the borders to immigrants that would replace Blacks with Hispanics. And true to form, the scenario is being played out in local political scenes around the country. Rather than the politicians building the communities, and creating conditions to improve health safety and education, they are jockeying for space at the knee of power and influence and a stroke on the head.

None of this bickering and fighting will bring about what we all truly deserve, a bigger piece of the pie enough to feed us all.

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Legal System Fails Again: Homeless Hispanic Hero Held in Jail without Bail

by Lloyd Williams

Kris Leija of Abilene, Texas was riding his bicycle at 3:30 in the morning on April 27th when he came upon a 70-unit apartment complex which had just caught fire. Without hesitation, the 22 year-old man rushed into the burning building and began pounding on doors to awaken sleeping residents. At one door, a young child answered his knock, and Kris entered and led the girl and two of her brothers to safety.

Over the objections of paramedics already on the scene, he immediately reentered the inferno. Darting past flames which were by now less than 10 feet away, he ventured back to the apartment to find the kids' youngest sibling. Mr. Leija was captured clearly on video as he emerged from the now raging inferno with the baby dangling from an infant car

seat.

Although, as he described it, "My lungs were burning and I couldn't breathe at all," he then went back a third time to search for the children's mother who, it turned out, had escaped via another exit. Film footage of the incident shows an exhausted Leija collapsing on the street from exhaustion and smoke inhalation.

The feel-good story made first, local, then national news, with Kris appeared on such shows as Good Morning America. When it came out that not only was this hero unemployed and homeless, but that he was on probation for burglary, did somebody offer him a home or a job? Did the mayor throw a parade in his honor and give him the key to the city?

Nope, instead a warrant was issued for the arrest of Leija because of his failure to meet with his probation officer last month. He was hand-

cuffed and carted off like a common criminal. And now he is being held without bail in the Taylor County jail. What a cruel reward for performing a selfless act of heroism on behalf of perfect strangers!

"I just want the community to look at me as a good person and what I did cause what I did a long time ago doesn't affect me now cause I'm not that person," he said in a jailhouse interview. "I learned my mistakes from what I did, and that ain't me." But Leija, who says he'd do it all over again, is languishing behind bars, despite exhibiting overwhelming proof that already earned a second chance.

This is only further evidence that the callous, American criminal justice system, by design, is eager to seize on any excuse to incarcerate poor, uneducated, minority males, especially those who, like Mr. Leija, exhibit extraordinary charac-

ter. For the penal system is a growth industry, with the same voracious appetite for any other business. And it prefers model prisoners, because they are less of a headache in the penitentiary, which translates to a larger profit margin.

What, besides racism, can explain the insensitive arrest of Kris Leija? And how could he be denied bail? Is he really more of a danger to society than the endless parade of white-collar crooks who so arrogantly fleece corporations of billions without so much as a slap on the wrist? No he is not, yet everyone accepts the unwritten caste rules based on color of skin, which offer leeway to those criminals from the privileged class who never have to spend a night in jail or fork up the cash, no matter how much they steal.

Lloyd Williams is an attorney and a member of the bar in NJ, NY, CT, PA & MA

Still in the battle

By Marian Wright Edelman

As our nation wages a war against Iraq and is anxiously preoccupied with terrorism around the world, the Bush Administration and congressional leaders are still waging a radical budget war against children here at home. At the end of March the House and Senate passed key elements of President Bush's budget plan, which lavishes massive new tax cuts on the rich while putting children in harm's way by eliminating, dismantling, cutting and freezing essential children's programs like Head Start and after-school programs. The Senate passed a budget that cuts the Administration's proposed tax plan in half but still provides \$350 billion in new tax cuts, mostly for the rich and at the expense of children and working families. The House passed a budget that makes some of the biggest cuts to children's programs in history, handing even larger tax breaks to the rich. Then, on Friday, April 11th Congress approved the final fiscal year 2004 concurrent budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 95) by very close margins. It is the first of many steps in the legislative process to enact the tax cuts and the spending cuts proposed by President Bush.

The Administration

claims its budget giveaways to the rich will stimulate the economy. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office does not agree: it says the Bush budget and tax plan's overall impact on the economy is "not obvious" and would probably have a negligible effect on the economy. It also forecasts that the Administration's irresponsible plan will create a huge deficit over the next decade totaling \$1.82 trillion. None of this is news to those who oppose the Administration's radical budget plan. The Bush Administration and its congressional allies seek to starve the federal government of resources to help children, the poor, seniors, the disabled, and working families-erasing decades of progress.

The battle is far from over. We must keep fighting with all our might to save Head Start, child health, foster care, and education protections for our children. On March 19th, the Children's Defense Fund and our supporters joined with the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, People for the American Way, Move-on.org, the Fair Taxes for All Coalition, members of over 200 other partner organizations, and citizens all around the country to oppose the President's budget and tax plan. We expected to have

only a few thousand participants, but hundreds of thousands of people, despite imminent war, called, e-mailed and faxed their

*We must believe
that we can save
all of our children
and then do it! We
can transform our
nation's priorities
if we truly believe
we can.*

Senators and Representatives jamming the Capitol switchboard for hours. You may have been one of them. If so, thank you. Together we were able to send a powerful message. The Senate's decision to reverse an earlier vote and only give the President half of the tax cut he wanted-still totally unacceptable-surprised many people. And while the House supported the Administration's full tax cut, the vote was much closer than expected. March 19th did make a difference.

But we still have an uphill fight ahead. The final resolution passed by Congress leaves millions of children in

danger. We must keep standing up and speaking out through visits, calls, and e-mails. If you believe children's urgent needs should be met before millionaires' desires, please speak up now. Tell your elected officials what you think. Every Wednesday, get 10 friends to call or e-mail their member of Congress and tell them to say "no" to dismantling Head Start and Medicaid and slashing child care and after-school programs.

We must believe that we can save all of our children and then do it! We can transform our nation's priorities if we truly believe we can. Don't ever give up insisting that children be protected first-whether the political or economic weather. Don't be afraid in these scary times to be a voice in the wilderness for children and the poor. It's the right and sensible thing to do.

Marian Wright Edelman is President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund whose mission is to Leave No Child Behind and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

STEALING MY GOOD NAME

By William Reed

"Who is it that can tell me who I am?" - Shakespeare

In just the past year over 100,000 African Americans, along with 600,000 others across the nation, realized the old "He who steals my purse steals trash" adage is declining in truth these days. Identity theft crimes continue to grow at an alarming rate, and many of the victims are Blacks.

As African Americans gain more money and consumer power, we should be aware that theft of our good names can occur in many ways. Scams to bilk you can originate on the Internet, or from your garbage or mailbox. Have you every thought that people can steal your name and consumer power by something as simple as going through your mail or trash taking pre-approved credit card offers, discarded credit card receipts and other personal information? Whether they get in your trash, computer purchases, or just by calling you on the phone acting as a solicitor; what they are seeking, and you need to repel, is their obtaining information such as your name, date of birth and social security number.

In order to save your good name slow your roll when it comes to releasing personal information. Simple steps can be

employed to avoid falling prey to identity theft artists. When you order checks only have your initials (no first name) and last name printed. Then, even if someone gains possession of your checkbook they won't know how you sign the checks. When you write checks to pay on credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the checks "For" line. Just put in the last four numbers, because credit card companies know the rest of the number and it thwarts people handling your check as it passes through check processing channels having access to it. Instead of your home number, put your work phone number on checks. If you have a PO Box use it instead of your home address. Use your work address if you don't have a PO Box. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.

Next, photocopy the contents of your purse or wallet. Copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc., so you'll know the important contents of your wallet, and all the account and phone numbers you'll need to call and cancel. Keep these photocopies in a safe place. When you travel, carry a photocopy of your passport.

If your purse or wallet is stolen, you are in the front of the line to become a victim of identity theft or fraud. You need to make a move immediately if

your credit card statements show unauthorized charges and/or purchases, or you fail to receive bills or credit card statements for charges you've made. In these instances do three things immediately. First, cancel the credit cards - the key here is having photocopies of the toll free and card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Step two is to file a police report in the jurisdiction where it the theft occurred. Last, but not least, call the three national credit reporting organizations - Equifax: 1-800-525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 and Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The Social Security Administration (fraud line) is 1-800-269-0271. The alerts to these agencies lets any company checking your credit know that your information was stolen and they must contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Even if you've not experienced identity theft, once a year order copies of your credit reports from all 3 credit-reporting agencies to get as much information as possible. If you find inaccurate items on any of the credit reports, contact the specific agency in writing to let them know your concerns. Under the Federal Credit Reporting Act they must investigate.

Jobs in business services, finance, and construction grow in March

TRENTON — According to preliminary estimates from the Department of Labor's monthly survey of approximately 7,000 employers, New Jersey gained 21,800 jobs in the private sector in March, Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll announced Tuesday. The numbers of persons on non-farm payrolls increased to a seasonally adjusted level of 4,001,900.

"Times remain tough, but there is some encouraging news in several areas," Department of Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll said. "The success of our efforts to attract highly skilled jobs is shown in the growth of professional and business services, financial activities, and education/health services. Our commitment to keeping our state's public and private infrastructure strong is shown in the growth in the construction industry."

The largest supersector increase on a seasonally adjusted basis was in professional and business services, which advanced by 7,300, with legal and architectural/engineering service firms contributing most to the improvement. The leisure and hospitality supersector rose by 4,400 jobs with added demand in all major sectors, including arts/entertainment/recreation and accommoda-

tions/food services. Larger than expected gains in specialty trade contractors and building construction helped increase the construction supersector by 3,700 jobs.

The financial activities supersector was up by 2,800, largely due to greater than usual hiring in finance and insurance. The educational and health supersector also rose by 2,800, as payroll gains were concentrated in educational services and social assistance firms. Manufacturing increased 1,400 mainly due to strength in such non-durable goods industries as printing and plastics/rubber.

Trade, transportation and utilities had the largest supersector decrease -1,400. Most retailers experienced less than expected seasonal hiring from February to March, when compared with recent prior years. The information supersector declined by 200 with the payroll reduction concentrated in Internet service providers/web search portals/data processing services and telecommunication firms. The government supersector, at 619,600 in March, remained unchanged.

New Jersey's March unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, up from the February rate of 5.7 percent.

SBA issues 219 Mil in loans

Continued from page 1

36 loans for \$9.3 million for the same time period during Fiscal Year 2002.

According to Kocsi, women-owned businesses in New Jersey received 171 loans for \$31.5 million during the first six months of FY 2003; compared to 218 loans for \$45.3 million for the same time period during Fiscal Year 2002.

"While the SBA is a significant funding source for New Jersey's small business owners, I am disappointed by the lending totals to our emerging mar-

ket segments, specifically, loans to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans and women business owners," said Kocsi.

"During the second half of 2003, my staff will focus on increasing our marketing and outreach efforts to our lending partners, as well as those community leaders who can help us identify business owners in need of financial assistance," said Kocsi. "I am optimistic that the second half of the year will show improvements over what we have accomplished to date."




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12:00 - 2:00 pm: Partnership For Progress Lunch
(Cost: \$60 before April 18 / \$75 after)
• Resources For Business Growth featuring Hector V. Barreto - Small Business Administrator, SBA and leading NY and NJ Organizations

2:15 - 6:15 pm Workshops (Free)
• Access to Capital for Start-Ups
• Access to Capital for Mature Businesses
• Doing Business with the Government
• Non-Profit Tips
• Partnering with Corporate America
• Strategies for Effectively Networking and Marketing Your Company
• Effectively Using Technology to Improve Your Business

6:30 - 8:00 pm: "Success Stories" featuring Russell Simmons - CEO and President, Rush Communications (Free)

8:00 - 10:00 pm: VIP Networking Reception with Russell Simmons (Cost: \$50)

Please contact the Global Diversity Group to find out how your company can be a sponsor or a partner in this important and dynamic event. Also, Vendor Booths are available at event for products and/or services to be displayed. For details and cost information call: 1.888.265.6480 or send an email to corporate@globaldiversitygroup.com.

Two suspected SARS cases reported

Two additional suspect cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) have been reported to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Both individuals have completely recovered. These additional cases bring the total of number of New Jersey cases to five. Four of these cases are residents of New Jersey and one is a student at a New Jersey university.

One new case involves a 68 year old woman who traveled to Asia between March 14 and April 2. The woman developed a cough on March 23 and a fever on March 25. She was hospitalized overnight in China and was released the following day after resolution of the fever. The patient's cough subsided on March 30. She returned to New Jersey on April 11 and has recovered. Family members, who were in contact with the patient while her illness was resolving, remain healthy.

The other new case involves a Seton Hall University student (South Orange campus) who was visited on April 5 by a family member who is suspected of having a case of SARS. The student had symptoms of a respiratory illness before being exposed to the family member and developed fever and worse respiratory symptoms after the exposure. The student was never hospitalized and is currently doing well.



In response to the above information, DHSS and Seton Hall University administration sent a joint email to students, faculty and employees this morning advising them of the suspect case. Classes at Seton Hall University resumed today after the holiday weekend.

DHSS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have offered the follow-

ing guidance to the Seton Hall University community:

Any student, faculty member, or employee who was on campus between April 5 and April 15 and developed or develops the following symptoms between April 6 and April 26 should immediately contact Seton Hall University's student health services or a physician of their choice.

- Temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater AND any of the following:

- Dry cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle aches, fatigue, headache.

"The primary means of SARS transmission is close, person to person contact," said Health and Senior Services Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, M.D. "Individuals who report fever or respiratory symptoms will be assessed for contact with the suspect case and receive appropriate evaluation and testing."

"Most of the suspect cases of SARS may ultimately be determined to be the result of other viral respiratory illnesses, and not SARS," said State Epidemiologist and Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eddy Bresnitz. "It is important that we remain vigilant and investigate close contacts of every suspect case."

The three previous New Jersey individuals had all traveled to Asia, and there have been no reported cases of SARS transmission to people in contact with them. The first New Jersey resident suspected of contracting SARS is fully recovered, the second is recov-

ering at home and the third was discharged from a Pennsylvania hospital and was diagnosed with another illness.

To date, CDC has reported 190 suspect and 38 probable SARS cases nationwide, including one probable and two suspect cases in New Jersey. There have been no deaths in the United States. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 3,947 probable cases worldwide in 27 countries, including 229 deaths, as of April 22, 2003.

SARS is a form of atypical pneumonia occurring in a person who has traveled to a country with an outbreak or come in contact with a person with SARS. SARS begins as an influenza like illness, with such symptoms as rapid onset of high fever, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, dry cough and shortness of breath. X-rays may show pneumonia and/or other abnormalities. Laboratory tests may show low numbers of white blood cells and platelets. Some cases worldwide, but only one in the United States, have involved respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation.

The WHO has recommended that people traveling from certain SARS affected areas be screened before they board airplanes. Upon arrival in the U.S., travelers receive an alert developed by CDC. The travel alert reminds passengers to monitor their health for at least 10 days, see their health care provider if they get sick, and report their travel history.

Anyone who gets sick while traveling in an area affected by SARS should limit contact with others and avoid further travel. To find a local health care provider, individuals should contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

The DHSS holds weekly teleconferences with New Jersey hospitals and public health agencies to provide updates, explain how to identify potential cases, and detail appropriate reporting mechanisms.

Health care providers in New Jersey have been instructed to immediately report any suspected cases by telephone to both the DHSS and local health officials. The DHSS maintains close communication regarding SARS with CDC and New Jersey's public health and health care communities.

The Department has also sent out transportation guidelines to the state's 30 advanced life support programs, the state's 155 basic life support programs and New Jersey's hospitals and public health agencies.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/travel.

Health Briefs

DAD'S PROSTATE CANCER UPS SON'S RISK OF DISEASE

A large research review confirms that having a father or brother with prostate cancer is a major risk factor for the disease — and lends support to regular and early screening for the cancer in men with a family history, according to researchers.

Their study found that men with an affected first-degree relative (a father or brother) had a 2.5 times greater risk of prostate cancer than those without a family history.

BLACK COHOSH MAY MAKE BREAST CANCER DRUG MORE TOXIC

Women with breast cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy may want to avoid black cohosh, the herbal remedy often used to treat menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes, according to Connecticut researchers.

In a new study of laboratory-grown breast cancer cells, the herb seemed to increase the toxicity of the commonly used chemotherapy drugs doxorubicin (Adriamycin) and docetaxel (Taxotere), but not a third, cisplatin.

ESTROGEN PATCH MAY BE SAFER FOR HEART THAN PILL

Estrogen replacement therapy may be safer for the heart if it is delivered through a patch rather than a pill, a small study suggests. Postmenopausal women who took hormone replacement therapy through a pill experienced an increase in an important marker of heart attack risk, while women who used a patch did not, according to a study published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. Though long theorized to be helpful, several recent clinical trials have suggested that hormone replacement therapy might actually have a negative effect on the heart.

The new research may be a hopeful signal to women with severe menopausal symptoms who worry that HRT might damage the heart, according to the study's lead author, Dr. Wanpen Vongpatanasin at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

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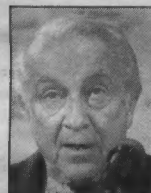
—Kim Bowman

Jazz singer & Civil Rights activists Nina Simone dead at 70



Remembering her artistry and activism, hundreds of mourners crowded a church in southern France on Friday April 25th to bid farewell to jazz singer Nina Simone. Simone, whose raspy, soulful voice and protest songs of the U.S. civil rights movement won her lasting acclaim, died on Monday, April 21st at age 70 after a long illness in France, where she had lived for years.

Dr. Robert Atkins, Author of controversial diet books dies



Robert C. Atkins, a cardiologist who devised the Atkins Diet, a hotly debated weight-loss plan favoring steak and eggs over spaghetti and spinach that more than 30 million Americans have tried, died recently in Manhattan. He was 72.

Dr. Atkins fell and suffered head injuries on April 8 on the sidewalk in front of his Atkins Center for Complementary Medicine in Manhattan, where he also lived. The center offered an eclectic mix of traditional and alter-

native treatments for many illnesses and conditions, including obesity. Back in April 2002, he was hospitalized for cardiac arrest, which doctors said was caused by an infection unrelated to his diet.

Luther Vandross condition worsens

Grammy-winner Luther Vandross recently suffered a stroke in a New York Hospital, his spokeswoman said. However, the singer is said to now be in critical condition. The veteran R&B crooner, who turned 52 on April 20, suffered a stroke on the 16th, according to a statement from his business manager, Carmen Romano.



Vandross won four Grammy awards in the 1990s. His hits include "Jump to It," "Here and Now," and "Don't Wanna Be a Fool." Let's keep Luther in our prayers.

Darryl Strawberry free from prison

Former major league baseball player Darryl Strawberry, 41 was recently released from Gainesville Correctional Institution in Gainesville, Florida. Strawberry served eleven months of

an 18-month sentence for violating probation on cocaine possession charges. Strawberry's imprisonment stemmed from a 1999 arrest for cocaine possession in Tampa. He later pleaded no contest to the charge and received probation, which he violated six times before being sentenced to prison by Hillsborough Circuit Court Judge Ralph Steinberg last April 29.



Tommy Lee cleared in child's drowning

A California jury earlier this month cleared rocker Tommy Lee of responsibility in the death of a 4-year-old boy who drowned in his pool, rejecting a \$10 million wrongful death claim by the child's parents. The jury deliberated for less than three hours before returning a unanimous verdict in a lawsuit brought against Lee by German actress Ursula Karven-Veres and her Hollywood producer husband, James Veres.

"It was very, very obvious that Tommy Lee was not responsible for the death of that child," jury foreman Howard Pollack said outside court after the verdict. "People are responsible for their own children."

Foxy gives Wendy Williams the dirt



Rapstress Foxy Brown went on the air recently with New York radio personality Wendy Williams where she scooped listeners on what's going down in her life. As usual, there seems to be lots of drama. Brown told Williams that her upcoming project, "Ill Na Na Part 2: The Fever," has been indefinitely shelved. The set was due

May 6 under a joint venture agreement between Bad Boy and Def Jam but Brown says that Bad Boy founder Sean Combs wanted her to make drastic changes to her image including her hair color. Brown also took issue with Combs owning 50 percent of her contract.

Brown told Williams that she asked Def Jam's Lyor Cohen to release her from her contract. He responded with "over his dead body."

Foxy further revealed that she recently had a miscarriage and that she and ex-fiancé Kurupt split, in part, because of gossiping by the female rapper Eve.

Kam's Kapsules:

For movies opening May 2, 2003

BIG BUDGET FILMS

The Lizzie Maguire McGuire Movie



(PG for adult themes) Big-screen adaptation of the Disney TV-series starring Hilary Duff. This partially-animated adventure has Liz just graduating from junior high and on vacation in Rome where a case of mistaken identity has the heroine transformed from awkward teen to Italian pop sensation.

X2: X-Men United



(PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and sci-fi-style violence) Next installment in the comic book franchise about an elite team of gifted, super-human freaks. This go-round they unite to find the mutant assassin who made an attempt on the life of the President. Among the ten original cast members reprising their roles are Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Anna Paquin and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Blue Car (R for expletives and sex content) Mixed-up, self-mutilating kid melodrama about an abandoned 18 year-old girl who is inspired by her English teacher to channel her angst into award-winning poetry after her father disappears in the family's blue automobile.

The Dancer Upstairs (R for profanity and heavy violence) John Malkovich makes his directorial debut with this adaption of the Nicholas Shakespeare novel of the same name. Set in Peru in the 1980s, this thriller revolves around a married cop who has been on the trail of a Marxist terrorist for twelve years who finds his life altered after a passionate encounter with his daughter's ballet teacher.

Marooned in Iraq (Unrated) Kurdish comedy, set during the Iran-Iraq War, about a musical trio, made up of an elderly man and his two sons, on a mission to find their lead singer/wife/mother who has run off with the father's best friend. (In Farsi with subtitles)

Owning Mahowny (R for cursing and some sex) True tale about the Canadian bank executive who frittered \$12 million in deposits away on his compulsive gambling habit.

Spellbound (G) Not a remake of the 1945 Hitchcock classic, but a documentary who chronicles the efforts of eight kids to become the 1999 national spelling bee in Washington, DC.

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Morphing mutants make major mayhem in memorable "X-Men 2"

Generally speaking (or in this case, writing), the average sequel fails to measure up to an audience's expectations. Despite the best of intentions, most are unable to recapture the magic, which made the first a success, while some are simply very obvious, money-grabbing rip-offs.

However, in *X-Men 2*, we have one of those rare exceptions. For this alternately absorbing and amusing action adventure far exceeds anything the original even attempted.

This film franchise is based on the popular Marvel Comics series by Stan Lee about a cadre of social outcasts, each of whom boasts a unique, genetic anomaly. Though rejected by a world, which cannot see past their differences, these mutated misfits bond together, putting their super-powers to work for the betterment of mankind.

X-Men 1 (2000) resonated with audiences, domestically, to the tune of \$157 million at the box-office, which is not to mention it's overseas, DVD, and video rental takes. Still, I felt

that the original dragged, because it went to such great lengths to acquaint us with each protagonist only to have the picture end rather abruptly soon after all the intros.

This strategy, as it turns out, was the perfect set-up for *X-2*, which wastes no time in immersing us in a special *f/x*, yet simultaneously character-driven, adventure. The movie was once again written and directed by Bryan Singer, who managed to reassemble eleven players from the principal cast, topped by Academy Award-winners Halle Berry (for *Monster's Ball*) and Anna Paquin (for *The Piano*) and Oscar-nominee Ian McKellen (for *Lord of the Rings I and Gods and Monsters*).

Berry appears as Storm, a one-woman, weather-effector, Paquin as the power-acquiring Rogue, and McKellen as Magneto, a freak who can manipulate metal. Also reprising their roles are Hugh Jackman as the lupine Wolverine, Patrick Stewart as the telepathic Professor Xavier, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos as the



Movie Review by Kam Williams

chameleon-like Mystique, Famke Janssen as the telekinetic Dr. Jean Grey, James Marsden as the laser-eyed Cyclops, Shawn Ashmore as the frosty-freezing Iceman and Bruce

Davidson as Senator Robert Kelly.

Key additions to the cast include the scene-stealing Alan Cumming as the messianic, teleporting Night Crawler, Brian Cox as the villainous Stryker and Kelly Yu as his steel-clawed hench woman, Death Strike.

X-Men 2 opens in Washington, DC with an attempt on the life of the President at the White House. Because the assassin exhibits super-human abilities, the incident escalates the human-mutant tensions introduced in *X-Men 1*, and leads to a call for the passing of an Anti-Mutant Registration Act. Because most of the mutants are good but merely misunderstood, this recurring theme of intolerance allows the story to make a subtle statement about the consequences of prejudice and fear.

The primary setting remains the mansion on the sprawling grounds of Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Children which is, in truth, a cover for the all-Mutant Academy where our heroes hang out, show off their

super-powers, flirt with each other and make flip comments while figuring out how to deal with a world that doesn't understand them.

The plot thickens when Stryker and an army of evil miscreants arrive to steal Professor Xavier's new gizmo called the Cerebro which is likely to enable them to rule the planet. I know the implausible plot probably sounds corny, but trust me it ain't.

On top of a riveting storyline, this futuristic fable is chock-full of mano-a-mano, Mortal Combat-style fighting and more laughs than you get from your average romantic comedy nowadays. Playful, spectacular, surprising, heart-warming and touching. In sum, endlessly entertaining, especially since *X-Men 3* and beyond ought to be already in the works. The first bona fide blockbuster of 2003.

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for profanity, sexuality and sci-fi style violence.

Get Ready to Laugh at Expense of Eddie Griffin's "DysFunctional Family"

Review by Kam Williams

Historically, comedians have considered their own families to be fair game as source material for observational comedy. Joan Rivers joked about her husband, Edgar. Bill Cosby narrated countless tales about his younger brother, Russell. The clown-haired Phyllis Diller droned on about her hubby, Fang. And the late Henny Youngman was known as much for his signature phrase, "Take my wife, please!" as he was for fiddling with his ever-present props, a violin and bow.

Still, I don't remember any comic exposing skeletons nearly as kinky as Eddie Griffin does in *DysFunktional Family*. This crass concert film, obviously inspired, in part, by the phenomenal success of *The Original Kings of Comedy* (2000), is a clever combination of stand-up routine and embarrassing expose'. Why Eddie's relatives would agree to appear onscreen to confirm his assertions is beyond me. Perhaps it was the irresistible allure of 15 minutes of fame.

But I wonder whether pervert Uncle Curtis really wants the world to know that he's a sex addict with a mammoth pornography collection which includes explicit videos of himself in the act with a variety of different women? Or if good sport Uncle Bucky minds all the quips about his heroin addiction and felony convictions? Even Eddie's mom is uncovered as having had serious issues, such as the time she tried to run her son over with her car.

I suppose all you really want to know is whether the film is funny or mean spirited. I found it to be a little bit of both, though I must admit that the moments of merriment were all but undone by Eddie's triumphant return to his Kansas City roots for that visit with the real-life characters he's lampooning here so mercilessly.

The movie also includes several skits that don't revolve around his relatives, with the



Eddie Griffin

subject matter ranging from the bleached Michael Jackson to annoying Jehovah's Witnesses to a discussion of how blacks would've handled 9-11. Eddie's insights, unfortunately, aren't particularly original, though they become almost comical by the cadence of his colorful delivery which relies on the incessant use of profanity and the N-word.

I guess tone alone is enough to make some people laugh.

Good (2 stars)

Rated R for profanity, racial epithets and graphic sexuality.

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All bids are subject to the provisions of Chapter 2, revised Ordinance of the City of Newark, Sec. 2.4:14(A) entitled, "Contracts with City and stipulations as to prevailing wages and working conditions".

Contract or contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, the right being reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities therein and to award contract or contracts for the whole or any part thereof.

The City reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount of the contract to cover actual requirements needed for the contract period.

Bidders must comply with chapter 33, P.L. 1977 requiring stockholders and partnership names.

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Carolyn McKnight, CPM, RPPO, QPA
 City Purchasing Agent

Date Published: April 30, 2003

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN LEGAL NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown, New Jersey, has prepared its annual plan in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Redevelopment and provisions of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. The plan states the Housing Authority's Mission Statement and Goals. It further explains the objectives to achieve the goals. Included as part of the annual plan are the Housing Authority's relevant policies.

The plan will be available to the public from May 12, 2003 through June 12, 2003 and can be examined during normal business hours of the Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown, 31 Early Street, Morristown, NJ. A Public Hearing will also be held on June 12, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the aforementioned address soliciting comments on the plan.

Upon completion of the 45-day review period, the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown and the Resident Advisory Board will approve the plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

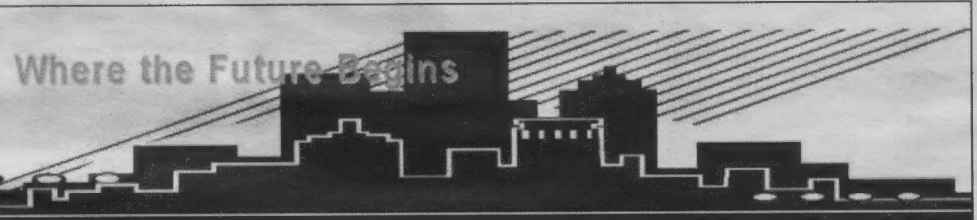
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Calendar

Community

ONGOING — MAY 4

Newark — UniverSoul Circus is coming to Newark on its 10th Anniversary Tour. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

New Brunswick — The Education Law Center will celebrate its 30th Anniversary with Kids in Concert, "Journey Across Culture" at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 973-624-1815 ext. 22.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Mountainside — The Two Hundred Club of Union County will host its Spring Valor Awards Luncheon at L'Affaire Restaurant, Rt. 22 Eastbound at 11:30 a.m. For more info call 908-322-2422.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

New York — Celebrate Mother's Day with the world famous Harlem Gospel Choir at B.B. King's Blues Club & Grill with an all-you-can-eat-buffet. For more info call 212-997-4144.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 — 17

The Boys & Girls Club of America will hold its National Conference. For more info call 973-765-9612.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

New York — Faith in God Entertainment Group will hold auditions for poets, actors, models, dancers and vocalists for a two-day Arts Festival scheduled for July in West Village, NY. For more info call 212-613-3107.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

Newark — WIC Program at UMDNJ offers a variety of support services to participants. Appointments are strongly recommended. For more info call 973-972-3416.

Newark — Beth Israel Medical Center offers free Breast Cancer Patient Support Group. For more info call 973-926-7609.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Bloomfield — NJ Blood Center will host a blood drive at Harley Davidson of Essex County, 168 Bloomfield Ave. from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Paterson — Barnet Hospital will

host a free seminar on how to care for elderly loved ones at 6:30 p.m., 680 Broadway. To RSVP call Ellen Rosenberg at 973-977-6683.

FRIDAY, MAY 9 — JUNE 6

East Orange — The East Orange YMCA, 100 No. Arlington Ave will sponsor a caregiver support workshop from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. For more info call 973-673-5518 or Pat Yannacci at 201-460-1600.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Orange — NJ Blood Center will host a blood drive at Union Baptist Church, 160 Oakwood Ave. from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

South Orange — NJ Blood Center will host a blood drive at South Orange Rescue Squad on 4 on Third St. from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 15 — JUNE 12

West Orange — Arden Courts will sponsor a caregiver support workshop from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For more info call Gail Kurkwick at 973-736-3100 or Pat Yannacci at 201-460-1600.

MONDAY, MAY 16

New Brunswick — The Cancer Institute of NJ will host a briefing at the institute on cancer research, treatment and prevention in the state from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more info call Candace Bornick at 732-235-9871.

Business

ONGOING

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College is sponsoring a series of seminars, support groups during Spring 2003 Semester. For more info call 973-877-3395.

SUNDAY, MAY 4 — 9

New Brunswick — Rutgers University will host a leadership training workshop of professional development at University Inn and Conference Center, 178 Ryders Lane. The session will be repeated on Sept. 21-26 and Nov. 16-21. For more info and fee call 732-445-5526.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Newark — City News and City Marketing Group presents its 5th Annual City Business Expo 2003 at the Newark Airport Marriott from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. For more info call 973-642-4400.



FRIDAY, MAY 16 — New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark presents Grammy award-winning saxophonist Sonny Rollins at 8:00. For tickets and more info call 1-888-466-5722.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

more info call 973-376-4343.

New Brunswick — NJ State Bar Foundation will host a free seminar on divorce, what everyone should know about child custody, child support and grandparents rights from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more info call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 — 8

Trenton — New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute will host its Second Annual Policy Leadership Conference at the Lafayette Yard Marriott, One West Lafayette St. For more info call 732-932-3133 ext 599.

MONDAY, MAY 12

Newark — Newark Museum presents Royal Arts of the Yoruba Kingdom of Africa with speaker Christa Clarke, Ph.D. Curator of Africa from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more info call 973-596-6613.

MONDAY, JUNE 2 — 6

Somerset — Rutgers University will host an advanced management development program at the Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center, 200 Atrium Dr. The session will be repeated Oct. 13-17 and Dec. 1-5. For more info and fee call 732-445-5526.

Artz

ONGOING

Newark — Maize Restaurant presents Sweet and Low Thursdays featuring vocalist Denise Hamilton from 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. For more info call 973-639-1200.

ONGOING — MAY 18

Millburn — The Paper Mill Theatre presents the play Camelot with music by Frederick Loewe. For

SATURDAY, MAY 17 — 18

Newark — Newark Symphony Hall presents The McDonald's GospelFest 2003 with special guest Donnie McClurkin, Vickie Winans, Cissy Houston, etc. For more info call 973-643-8009.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

New Brunswick — The State Theatre presents Saturday Night Fever The Musical for three performances at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 732-246-7469.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 — JUNE 14

New York — B.B. Kings presents Isaac Hayes in concert at 8:00 p.m. For more info call B.B. Kings at 212-997-4555 or ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15 — JUNE 16

New York — B.B. Kings presents the man himself, B.B. King in concert at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 212-997-4555 or ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

Religion

ONGOING

Newark — Greater Service Fellowship Church invites you to Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, come get the answers. For more info call 973-848-1711.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Summit — The Concord Singers will present their Spring Concert at the Calvary Episcopal Church on Woodland Ave at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 973-514-1412.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

New York — B.B. Kings Blues Club presents Arrested Development in concert at 8:00 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

New York — McDonald's GospelFest 2003 comes to Madison Square Garden at 7:30 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

Mail your calendar events and photographs at least two weeks in advance to:

**City News Publishing
111 Mulberry St., TH-C
Newark, NJ 07102 or
Fax to: 973.642.5444**

Newark — Newark Symphony Hall presents a Mother's Day Concert, featuring The Stylistics, The Manhattan, The Delfonics, The Chi-Lites and The Main Ingredient at 8:00 p.m. in the Sarah Vaughn Hall. For more info call 973-643-8009.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

FRIDAY, MAY 9 — 11

Newark — NJPAC presents the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Company. For more info call 1-888-466-5722.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Newark — Newark Symphony Hall presents Mother's Day Jazz Luncheon featuring Winard Harper Group, Yvette Glover Trio and Bradford Hayes at 2:00 p.m. For more info call 973-643-8009.

South Orange — Gallery 61 presents saxophonist Marion Meadows. Gallery 61 is located at 61 South Orange Ave. For more info call 973-763-8982.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

New York — Erykah Badu performs in concert at the Apollo Theater in Harlem at 8:00 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

Newark — NJPAC presents Jazz for Teens Final Concert showcasing young performers in the Victoria Theater at 2:00 p.m. For more info call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

NAACP lawsuit against gun dealer gets dirty

Continued from page 1

needs to fight back because of the racist sentiments held by those who would protect the right of gun manufacturers to flood the Black community, believing that human life is cheap there and that everyone is on drugs. In fact, earlier this month, while H.R. 1036 was being debated on the floor of the House, Rep. Barbara Cubin (R-Wyo.) rose to support it, saying: "My sons are 25 and 30. They are blond-haired and blue-eyed. One amendment today said we could not sell guns to anybody under drug treatment. So does that mean if you go into a Black community, you cannot sell a gun to any Black person..."

Immediately, African-American Congressman Mel Watt, (D-N.C.), who was managing the opposition to the bill, moved that Cubin retract the comments. She refused and one of her Republican colleagues moved to lay Watt's motion on the table—in other words, to cancel it. Watt then moved that a recorded vote be taken.

Cubin finally apologized for her remarks, but what was interesting was that her colleagues supported her by a vote of 227 to 195. While the racist statements by former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott were played up from one end of the country to another, these statements by a House Republican seem to have escaped most of us, or maybe they are so frequent that most people are now hardened when they occur.

Nevertheless, the NAACP has a point and so, we must fight back by making sure that our representatives are contacted to oppose both S. 659 and H.R. 1036 so that the courts could have a fair shot at the suit without having to consider a ban on the legal action imposed by the Congress and the White House.

I said the White House because it is expected that George Bush would sign such legislation, locking in the use of weapons of mass destruction in inner-city neighborhoods while seeking to prevent them from being used in Iraq. If more than 15,000 Black people are killed every year by guns, I would say that the process is slower, but the result is pretty much the same.

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Rebuild America

Continued from page 1

Think Tank in San Francisco. "Not only do they not plan to rebuild here. They do not plan to rebuild there. They plan to strengthen the oil wells and the money that they have."

Iraq is the second largest oil supplier in the world, behind Saudi Arabia. That has led some opponents of the war to charge that the fighting is not about freeing Iraqis from Saddam Hussein's oppression, but about seizing the prosperous oil wells.

With the war in Iraq and proposed tax breaks tilted toward the wealthy, most cities and states are experiencing budget problems. According to the National Conference of State Legislators, 41 states will face deficits the next fiscal year totaling \$78.4 billion.

William Spriggs, executive director of the National Urban League's Institute for Opportunity and Equality, says Americans are suffering in other ways.

"We'd gotten so used to thinking that we couldn't afford [needed services] that people have stopped thinking about it," Spriggs says. "It dropped from the conversation. So, part of the problem is just that—a lack of political will—and a lot of pass-

ing the buck."

For that to change, community groups must step up the pressure, says Damu Smith, founder and Chairman of Black Voices for Peace, a Washington, D.C.-based anti-war group.

Smith says advocacy groups must ask themselves, "Where's the other share of the pie when it comes to public education, affordable housing and health care? There's got to be a reorientation. And that's a public policy issue."

Patricia A. Coulter, president of the Urban League of Philadelphia, knows all about the impact of public policy.

"It's not so much getting the computers hooked up," she says. "Our real challenge is the safety of the computers because in order to have the computers in the building, we need to have a gate to guard the computers. So, you have to go through the system of getting a gate for the school. When you think of how these things impact our children on a day-to-day basis, that's another thing. When you look at our schools in Philadelphia, they look more like prisons."

And most of the people going to prison are poor.

"Poor people have not been able to gain access to even a decent income," says Maude

Hurd, president of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), a community-based group that represents low-income people. "We need decent wages for basic necessities like food, rent and just to be able to put clothing on their family's backs. But poor people have not even been able to gain access to even a decent income to be able to survive, so it's tough."

And it will get tougher unless people take action, says Cummings. Bush refused to meet with Cummings and the CBC to discuss the war with Iraq and other issues.

"In some sort of way, we've got to refocus him on the attention of this country," Cummings says. "Every forum that we can, we're going to be talking about it. We're going to be asking him publicly, why is it that he can't find time to meet with us on issues that go to the center of the lives of Americans, period."

Cummings answers his own question:

He says, "The fact is that we've got a president who claims to be compassionate and conservative. He is extremely long on conservative and extremely short on compassionate."

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